

Title: MUREP Aerospace Academy for Engaging Future Explorers in South Florida with Grades 6-12 NASA STEM Education
Institution: Florida Atlantic University
City/State: Boca Raton, Florida
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Summary: This NASA Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) Aerospace Academy (MAA) is led by Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to build the interest, skills and knowledge necessary for over 3300 underserved and underrepresented students in Grades 6- 12 in South Florida region for STEM careers. FAU has been officially designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. This MAA site will have active participation of Lauderdale Lakes Middle School and Lake Worth Community High School serving predominantly Black and Hispanic student population, Educator Preparation Institutes of Broward and Palm Beach State Community Colleges, Florida Space Institute and NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium and South Florida Science Center and Aquarium (SFSCA). The students will complete a minimum of 36 hours of high quality STEM activities in each session in the academic semesters during both in-school and after-school hours

using content from all four NASA Education mission directorates with high emphasis on Science.

FAU team will develop and incorporate basic concepts of remote sensing in the teaching modules with STEM contents through interactive, problem-based and activity based learning techniques. The STEM curriculum will meet the National Science Standards as well as the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Professional development opportunities for Pre-service and In-service teachers will be made available through this FAU MAA program. The NASA MAA Program at FAU will hold Family Focus Groups once a month and work with parents to improve students' STEM learning and educational growth. This forum will provide parents and caregivers with information, resources, and support needed to become an active partner in their children's education. The project team will conduct both Formative and Summative evaluation and report results to the NASA Office of Education on a regular basis. Formative and Summative assessments of the program's first year activities will result in a revised curriculum and pedagogical model for adoption in the second year. The project team will develop long term sustainment plan that will involve sponsorship from Industry partners and Educational organizations. The project team will share the tested teaching modules for implementation with other School districts in Florida and across the nation.